

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the Matter of

NOTICE OF SOUTH CENTRAL BELL)
TELEPHONE COMPANY OF AN)
ADJUSTMENT IN ITS INTRASTATE)
RATES AND CHARGES)

CASE NO.
8150

O R D E R

On February 20, 1981, South Central Bell Telephone Company (Company) filed its Notice with the Commission wherein it proposes to increase its rates for telephone service rendered on and after March 12, 1981.

On February 20, 1981, the Company also filed its Motion for Hearing and Oral Argument with respect to its request that certain interim tariffs be allowed to become effective March 31, 1981. The interim tariffs provide for a temporary surcharge to existing tariffs for residential and business telephone service which, as alleged in the Notice, would offset increases in depreciation costs.

The Commission is of the opinion and finds that a hearing and investigation will be necessary in order to determine the reasonableness of the proposed permanent rates and the proposed interim rates and that such investigation cannot be completed prior to the proposed effective dates.

The Commission, having considered the Notice and being advised, hereby ORDERS that the proposed permanent rates, charges and classifications be and they hereby are suspended and the application of the rates is deferred for a period of five (5) months on and after March 12, 1981.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That the Motion for Hearing and Oral Argument be and it hereby is sustained with respect to the request for a hearing and oral argument and overruled with respect to the request that the proposed interim rates not be suspended and thereby become effective March 31, 1981.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That the proposed interim rates, charges and classifications be and they hereby are suspended and the application of the rates is deferred for a period of five (5) months on and after March 31, 1981.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That South Central Bell Telephone Company be and it hereby is directed to appear at the Commission's offices at Frankfort, Kentucky on March 27, 1981 at 2:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, to show cause, if any it can, why the suspension of the proposed interim rates should be rescinded or modified.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That a hearing with respect to the proposed permanent rates be and it hereby is scheduled on March 27, 1981 at 3:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, in the Commission's offices at Frankfort, Kentucky.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That the Company shall at least twenty days prior to the date of hearings mail to each customer a typewritten or printed notice of the proposed interim rates or charges and the proposed permanent rates or charges and the place, date, hour and purpose of the hearings. Alternatively, the Company shall publish once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of newspapers of general circulation in the areas served by the Company a notice setting forth the place, date, hour and purpose of the hearings, the proposed interim rates or charges and the proposed permanent rates or charges as set forth in the Notice. Said notice shall also include the following language:

The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by South Central Bell Telephone Company. However, the Public Service Commission may, after evidentiary hearings, order rates to be charged that differ from these proposed rates. Such action may result in an increase in rates for customers other than those rates included in this notice.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That South Central Bell Telephone Company shall file on or before the date of hearing its testimony with respect to the proposed permanent rates in verified prepared form.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That nothing contained herein shall prevent the Commission from entering further Orders in this matter in the event the proceedings in this case shall be terminated by final Order and/or otherwise prior to the termination of the five month period of suspension.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That a hearing be and it hereby is scheduled on April 24, 1981 at 2:00 p.m. until approximately 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, in the Aldermanic Chambers of the Board of Aldermen, 3rd Floor, City Hall Building, 6th and Jefferson Streets, Louisville, Kentucky. The hearing shall be for the purpose of receiving public comment and testimony with respect to the proposed rates and charges of the Company.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 5th day of March, 1981.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Marlin M. Voth
Chairman

Katharine Randall
Vice Chairman

Don Hargis
Commissioner

ATTEST:

Secretary